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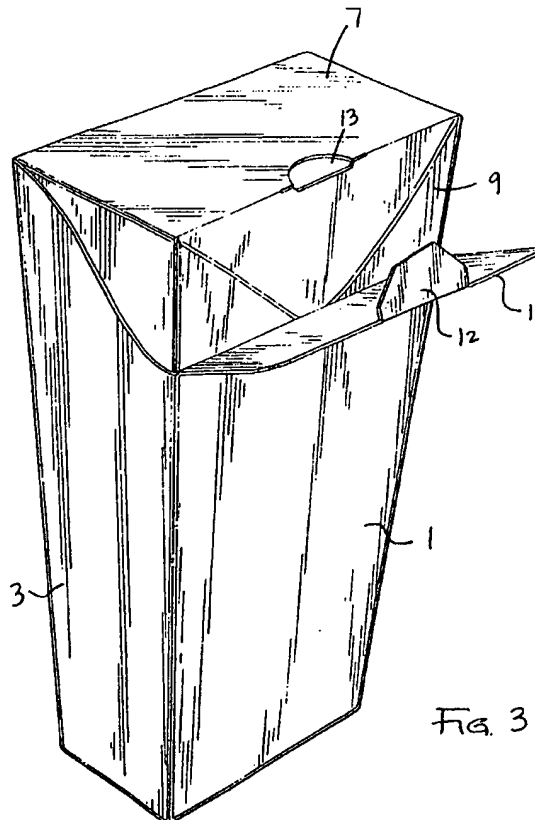
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(56) Documents Cited
US 4696397 A

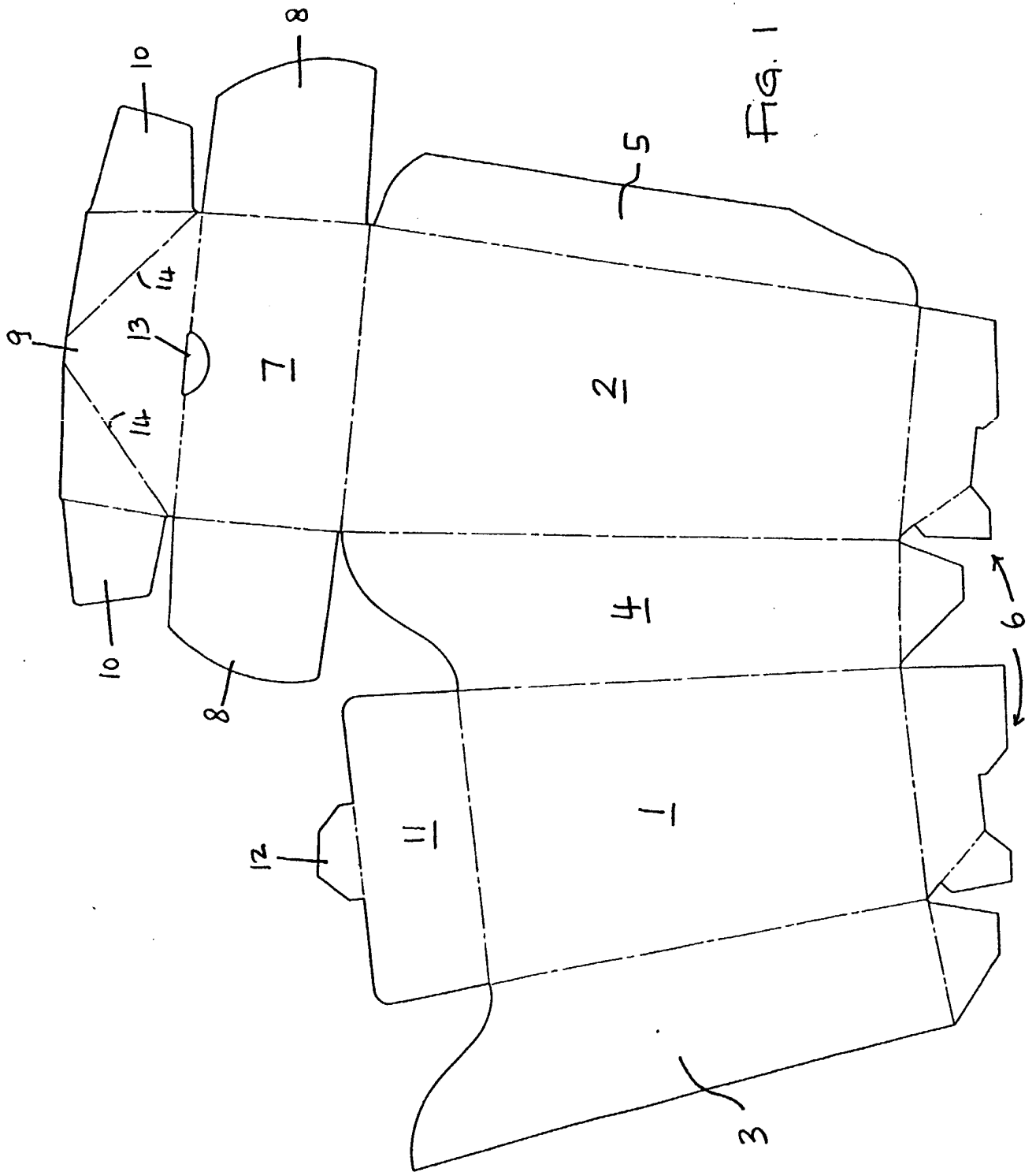
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(54) Abstract Title
Cartons

(57) A flip top carton has a hinged extension flap (11) on the front wall (1) of the carton body, which covers the front wall (9) of the flip top when closed. As a result the whole of the front of the closed carton is formed from a single piece of board, which facilitates printing.



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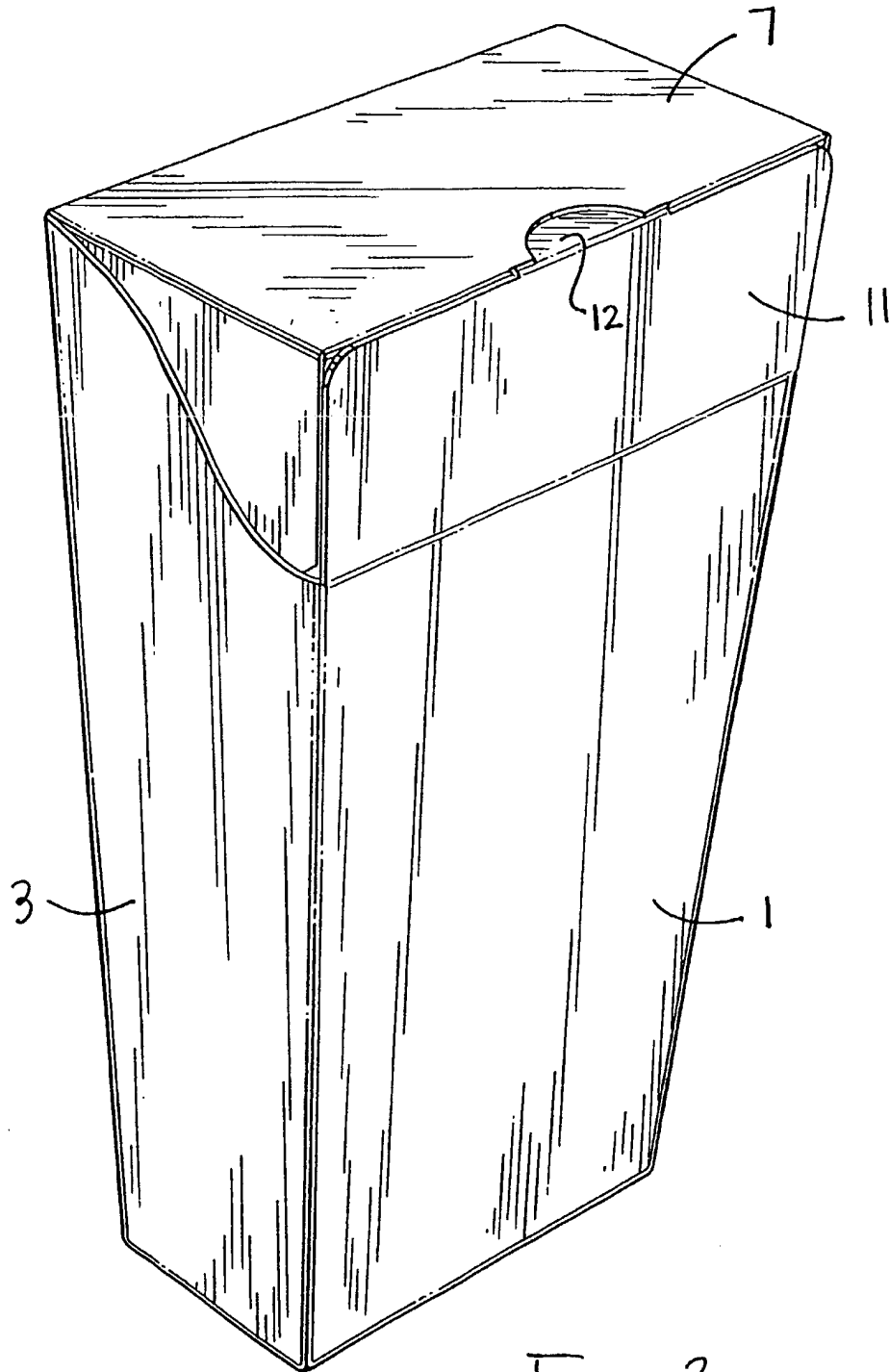


Fig. 2

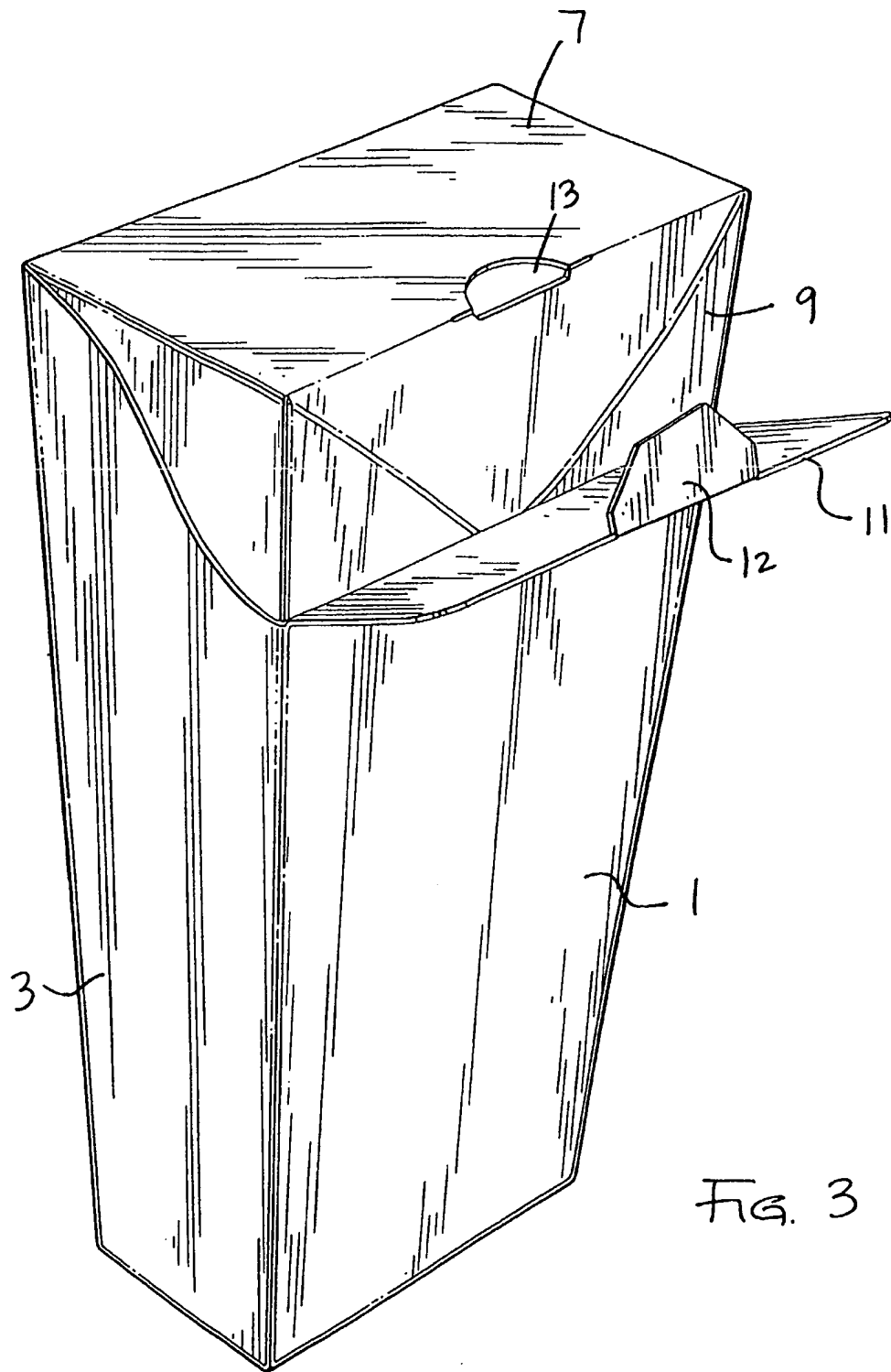


FIG. 3

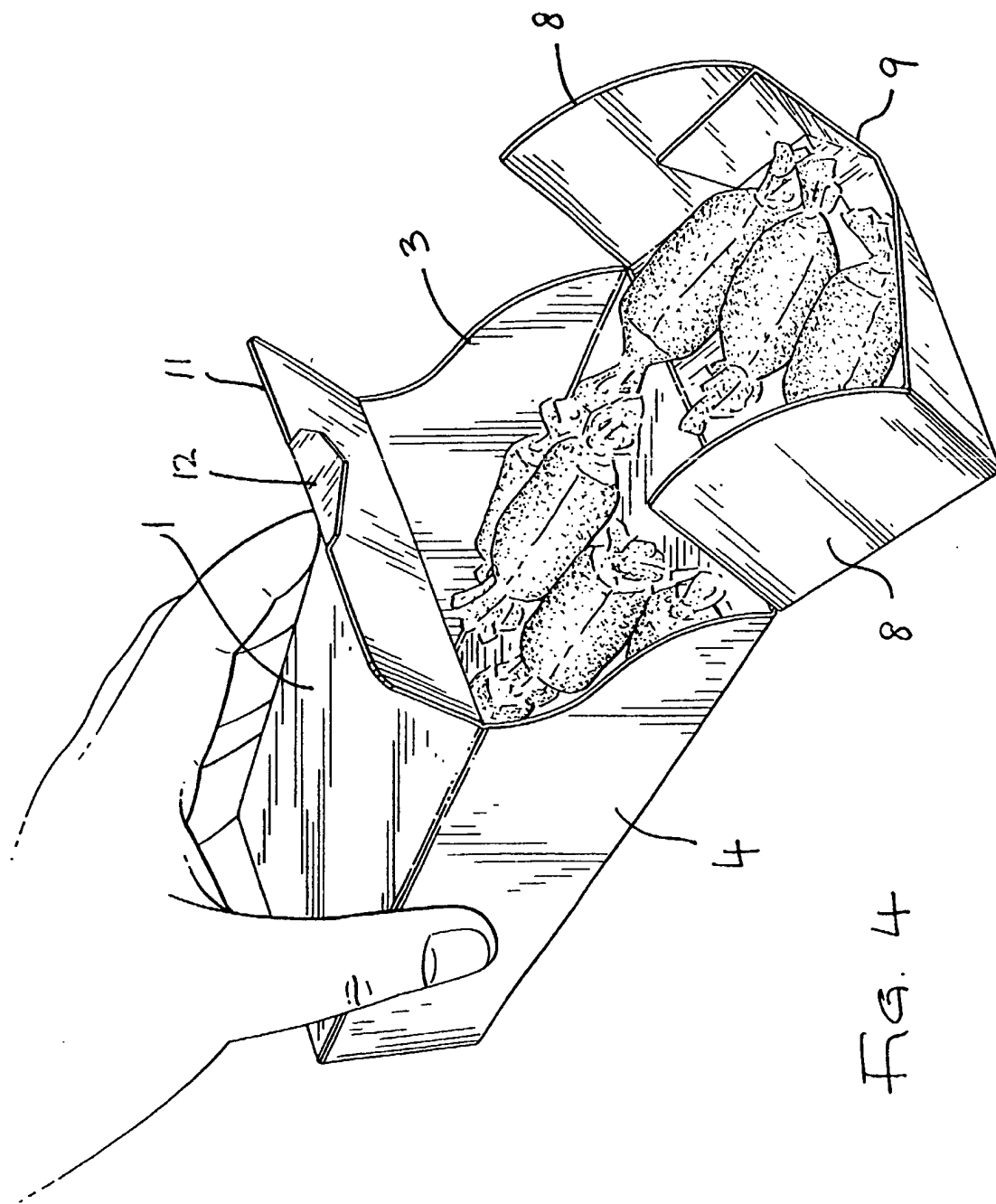


Fig. 4

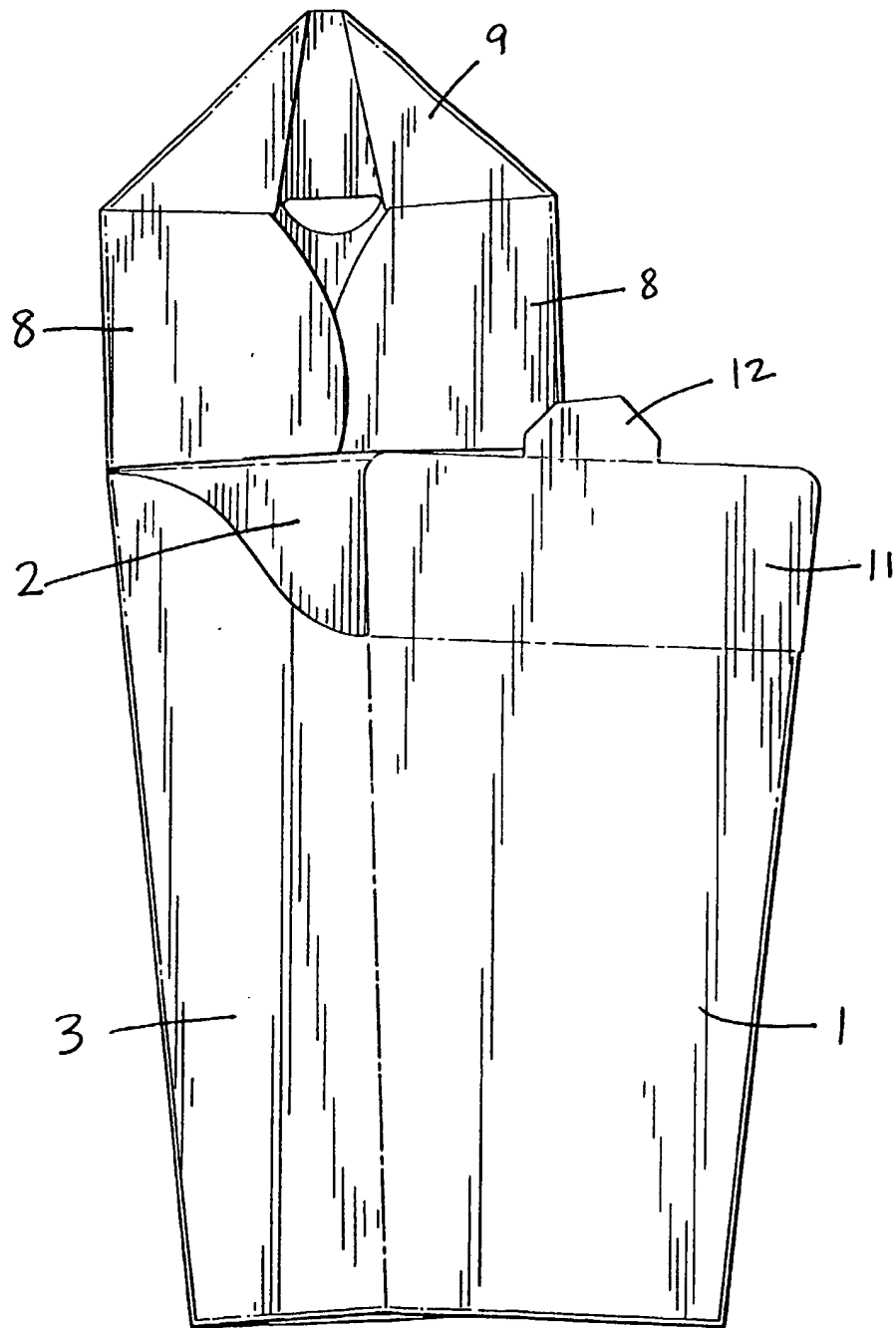


Fig. 5

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"Cartons"

The invention relates to cartons made of cardboard,
5 paperboard or similar lightweight foldable sheet
material. So-called "flip top" cartons are well known,
being ones in which a top closure is hinged along its
back edge to the rear wall of the carton and has a front
10 wall which, in the closed position, forms the top part
of the front of the carton. With such an arrangement
the front of the carton is in two parts, the lower part
forming part of the main body of the carton and the
upper part forming part of the flip top as just
mentioned. This makes it difficult to cover the whole
15 of the front of the carton with printed material of a
singular nature without misalignment of parts of the
printing at the division between such parts.

According to the present invention there is
provided a flip top carton, namely one in which a top
20 closure is hinged along its rear edge to a rear wall of
the carton and has a front wall which, in the closed
position, forms an upper part of the front of the
carton, the lower part of which is formed by a front
wall panel of the carton body, wherein the said front
25 wall panel is provided with an upward continuation in
the form of a hinged flap which overlies the said front
wall of the top closure in the closed condition of the
carton.

The provision of such a flap as an upward
30 continuation of the front wall panel of the carton body
means that substantially the whole of the front face of
the carton, in its closed condition, is formed from a
single sheet of board, sub-divided into the said front
wall panel and the said flap, which may be printed with
35 material of a singular nature without any problems of
alignment of different parts of the printing. When the
carton is to be opened the flap is simply hinged out of

the way to enable the flip top to be opened in the normal manner.

Preferably the said continuation flap substantially covers the whole of the said front wall of the top closure in the closed condition of the carton.

Preferably the carton includes means, such a suitable locking tab on the flap, for releasably securing it in its position overlying the front wall of the top closure.

In a preferred form of the invention a top wall panel of the top closure is hinged directly to the rear wall of the carton so as to be capable of being coplanar with the said rear wall in an open position of the closure. This enables the top closure to form an open continuation of the body of the carton when in its said open position, into which contents of the carton may be shifted for display and selection by users.

An embodiment of the invention will now be described by way of example and with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:-

Figure 1 is a plan view of a blank for making a carton according to the invention;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the fully erected carton in its closed condition;

Figure 3 is a view similar to Figure 2 but showing the aforementioned flap moved out of the way to enable the carton to be opened;

Figure 4 is a perspective view of the carton in an open condition; and

Figure 5 shows how the carton may be folded flat for storage and transportation, prior to filling.

Referring first to Figure 1, the blank comprises a row of hingedly interconnected panels for forming a tubular body of the carton, namely a front wall panel 1, a rear wall panel 2, and side wall panels 3 and 4, together with a gluing strip 5. Flaps 6 for making a conventional crash lock base are hinged to the

respective wall panels. An array of panels and flaps for forming a flip top for the carton includes a top wall panel 7 hinged to the rear wall panel 2, two side wall flaps 8, and a front wall panel 9 carrying tabs 10 for gluing to the flaps 8. Finally, the front wall panel 1 of the carton body carries a hinged extension flap 11 provided with a locking tab 12.

The manner in which the carton is erected and glued from the blank of Figure 1 will be clear to a skilled reader, and Figures 2 and 3 illustrate the erected carton. From these Figures it will be understood that, when the carton is fully closed as shown in Figure 2, the extension flap 11 on the front wall panel 1 is positionable to overlies and substantially cover the front wall 9 of the top closure, and is releasably securable in this position by engaging its locking tab 12 in a slot 13 suitably formed in the closure. When the top is to be opened the flap 11 is released and hinged out of the way as shown in Figure 3. Figure 4 shows the carton in an open condition, with some of its contents, in this case wrapped sweets, shifted into the open top closure for display and selection. The direct connection of the top wall 7 of the closure to the rear wall 2 of the carton body, without the top closure having an intervening rear wall of its own, means that the top wall 7 can be placed substantially in the same plane as the rear wall 2, as in Figure 4, to form a convenient subsidiary container into which some of the container contents may be shifted, as shown.

Finally, Figure 5 shows how the glued carton may be folded flat for transportation and storage, prior to filling, by virtue of the provision of suitable fold lines 14 (Figure 1) in the front wall 9 of the top closure.



Claims:

1. A flip top carton, namely one in which a top
closure is hinged along its rear edge to a rear wall of
5 the carton and has a front wall which, in the closed
position, forms an upper part of the front of the
carton, the lower part of which is formed by a front
wall panel of the carton body, wherein the said front
wall panel is provided with an upward continuation in
10 the form of a hinged flap which overlies the said front
wall of the top closure in the closed condition of the
carton.
2. A carton as claimed in claim 1, wherein the said
15 continuation flap substantially covers the whole of the
said front wall of the top closure in the closed
condition of the carton.
3. A carton as claimed in claim 1 or 2, including
20 means for releasably securing the said continuation flap
in its position overlying the front wall of the top
closure.
4. A carton as claimed in claim 3, wherein said
25 securing means comprises a locking tab on the flap
engageable in a slot in the top closure.
5. A carton as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein
a top wall panel of the top closure is hinged directly
30 to the rear wall of the carton so as to be capable
of being coplanar with the said rear wall in an open
position of the closure.
6. A carton as claimed in claim 1, substantially as
35 hereinbefore described with reference to the
accompanying drawings.

7. A blank of cardboard, paperboard or similar lightweight foldable sheet material, for making a carton as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6.



Application No: GB 0019703.8
Claims searched: 1 to 7

Examiner: Mike Henderson
Date of search: 9 November 2000

Patents Act 1977 Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK CI (Ed.R): B8P (PB1 PL4 PL5 PL6 PAX PE4 PK3)

Int CI (Ed.7): B65D 5/02 5/42 5/66 85/10

Other: ONLINE:WPI,EPODOC,JAPIO

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
X	US 4696397 (NAKAMATS) (Figs 7 - 10 and corresponding description most relevant)	& X -

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.